

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION

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Thursday, November 2. 1710.

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**T**HE Author of this Paper finding the Times Perilous, the Age Cenforious, Enemies Furious, Friends Cautious, and Espousing Truth Dangerous; and wishal, knowing not how long he may be permitted to speak in this manner, and resolving to speak freely and plainly, or not to speak at all; Humbly desires you will bear with him, in Stating a little the Case of this Paper, and its Author, for your Perusal; and according to which State, his past, as well as future Conduct, may, in some Measure, be understood.

It is now Seven Years, since the first beginning of this Work; during which

Time, the Author has had the Fate of pleasing and displeasing you in its turn, very often; as must be the Lot of every Man, that writes in an Age, where so many Parties have alternately Govern'd, and where the Men of the same Party, have so often been of several Opinions, about the same Thing.

In the carrying on the Work, I have endeavour'd with the utmost exactness, to adhere to Truth of Fact, and have never publish'd any Thing, for which I have not had such an unquestion'd Authority, as up-  
on the Credit of which, any Man would have depended; and the Noise of the Op-  
posite Party, in any doubtful Case, has been not  
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at the Substance, but the Circumstance— Which, because I have not been as Noisy and Loud as they, have Deluded many.

Would any Man put himself in my Case, and but consider the Attempts, innumerable for Number, by feign'd Stories, to impose upon me, and get me to Publish something, they might Triumph over my Credulity in; sending me formal Stories, dress'd up with Hypocritical Flourishes, and Compliments, to draw me in, and referring me to Creditable Witnesses for Proof, and the like; they would wonder, I have been no oftner taken in this Snare, and no more impos'd upon, than I have been.

If I have been ever injur'd on this Head, it has been rather by Cowards, than Knaves, and these among my own Friends, rather than the Enemies; and this really makes this Paper a Sufferer for other Mens Crimes, of which, however, I shall acquit my self as favourably to them as I can — The Fact is this :

Gentlemen come to me with a Relation, which they desire may be made Publick; they alledge the Necessity, the Justice, the abundant Service to the Publick; and being Men of Character and Credit, known to me, and known to the World, and attesting the Truth of Fact, giving it me distinctly, either under their Hands, or from their own Mouths, on their Reputation, and on their Promises, to stand by the Truth of it: I venture to Publish it, as no Man indeed could Scruple — When the Paper is Publish'd, the Party that are concern'd, cry out, rail, deny the Fact, and fall foul upon the Review — Well, to vindicate the Truth, I go to the Authors of it; one says, Sir, the Thing is every Word of it true, as I gave it you, and you may depend upon it — Well, Sir, will you set your Name to it, say I to him, and to the next, Shall I give you for the Author? O LORD! Sir, says one, do not Name me; Dear Sir, I beseech you, says another, do not Publish my Name — ANOTHER, I would not have my Name in Print for five Hundred Pounds — Another puts Money in my Hand, Sir, there's something for your Trouble, but I won't have my Name Publish'd by any Means

in the World — And thus, Gentlemen, the Poor Review bears the Scandal of imposing upon the World, because he must not expose his Cowards — These are hard Cases, and these Things fill your Mouths with Clamour — And the hardest of all is, that this happens even in Cases where the Thing has really been true, but the Persons have declin'd going about the Defence, and leave the Publication in the Lurch — By these Methods, this Paper seems Debtor to Truth, in the Stories of the *Oakhampton Election*, the *Taunton Church-Work*, the *Oxford Weather-Cock*, and the known Case of *Abraham Gill* — In all which, or any of which, if there is one Step taken beyond the Truth of Fact, the Authors are in Being, have Names, and Sir-Names; but neglect pursuing the Defence of the Truths they have oblig'd me on their Credit to Publish — Leaving me to the Mercy of the World for their Cowardice, rather than Mistakes.

It is three Year, that I have born the Reproach of having put upon the World, in the Case of *Abraham Gill*; I am still of the Opinion, that let the Character of *Abraham Gill* be what it will, yet, every Article in that Book is Truth — I have, in that Time, frequently by Letters and Messages, entreated Mr. *Jobu Skej* in *Thames-street*, and his Friends, at whose Request, and at whose Cost that Book was Publish'd, to enter into the Defence of it; or give me Leave, as in Justice they ought, and, as was solemnly promis'd, to publish their Names to it — yet can obtain neither — I neither added nor diminished one Article to or from their Relation. I shew'd them every Paragraph before it was Printed, and after, before it was Publish'd, they approv'd it all, they vouch'd it all, and they are all Men of Reputation in the City — Yet this Story is censur'd in the World for a Forgery, and laid upon the Author of the Review; as so little Concern has the Reputation of the Person they employ'd been to them.

These Things excepted, I know not an Article in the whole Work, which cannot be clear'd up to Truth and Justice; and these



these Things may, without Doubt—— If they had either Courage or Honesty to do it.

An Author, in this Case, can do no more, if he is impos'd upon, than either name the Persons, justify the Fact to Truth, or acknowledge, and ask Pardon for the Injury ; and if any Man is injur'd by me in this Paper, I am ready to do one of these Three at Demand — This is my general Answer to the Reproaches of Men, who are fond of reviling the Man they are not pleas'd with.

Now let me see the Man that can reproach the Review with telling one Untruth in Seven Years Writing — The Lyes, the Frauds and Follies of these honest Men, if they are such, are theirs, not mine——whose Lyes they remain, till they please to clear them up to the World ; and if Mr. *Stey* thinks himself hardly us'd by this, the Fault is his own ; let *Abraham Gill* and him defend it.

Now come to the Party-Circumstances of this Paper — All the World will bear me Witness it is not a Tory Paper——The Rage, with which I am daily treated by that Party, testify for me——Nay, the Tories will honestly own that they disown it——Yet, because I cannot run the Length that some of the other would have me——*New Scandal fills their Mouths*, and now they report, I am gone over to the New Ministry——These are the Men, who, it seems, are angry that I Write for upholding our Credit, without Regard to the Changes of the Great Men in the Administration.

I have had some Conferences with these Men, *at least wish some of them*——And I thank God I have : It has taught me to abhor their Temper, pity their Folly, and laugh at their Censure——I have met with none, but who run themselves up to this Extreme——That they had rather sink the Ship, than not have their own Pilots steer ; They had rather the Cause of God, and the Protestant Interest in Europe, should sink, than this New Ministry

should be enabled to support it ; They had rather *France* should over run us, than these People should keep them out.


Now, let me be gone over, or not gone over, let them answer the Argument : Is this the Spirit of an *Englishman*, to say nothing of a *Christian* ? Is this like Men that have any thing to lose, that have any Posterity to come after them ? I have nothing to do with New Ministry or Old in it ; I am sure the Old Ministry were too generous to be of this Opinion ; and whoever are of that Opinion, I am a Declar'd Enemy to the Principle, let who will profess it,

To run down the Credit, is to gratify *France* ; to keep it up, is to support Changes : Which shall we do ? I wish they would tell me, and tell their Names with it——Whether is an Honest Man to do——My Answer is short ; Let who will be supported by it, *France* must not be supported : I am for any Body, rather than *France* ; any Thing but Tyranny. State-Ministers may Oppress us ; Parties may embroil us ; but *France* will devour us. Any Thing but *France*——If *France* is at the Door, let any Man help to shut them out, I am with him ; and let what Ministry, or what Management, or what Government soever, offer to bring in *French* Power, I am against him.

The Scandal, therefore, of changing my Principle, because I am not for ruining my Country, is what I despise with the utmost Contempt ; and tho' I am still serving the thoughtless Creatures, that pass this Censure, it is with little Hope to please them, and less Concern, whether they are pleas'd or no.

I shall trouble the World with no more Apologies The Method I shall take, in talking of the Publick Affairs, shall, for the future, be, tho' with the same Desire, to Support and Defend Truth, yet with more Caution of Embroiling my self with a Party, who have no Mercy, and for a Party who have no Sense of Service.

A D V E R.

 **T**HE Author of this Paper having receiv'd many importunate Letters a long time, pressing him to go on with his so often promis'd Discourses upon Trade— Gives this Notice.

That having often Essay'd to carry on a continu'd Discourse upon Trade in this Paper, but been unavoidably prevented by the Fury of the Times, an unhappiness the Author did not foresee when this Work was undertaken— And finding it impossible to have his Essays upon Trade pursu'd in this Paper, 'in such an uninterrupted Manner as a Subject of that Consequence requires; some Gentlemen, who desire this Work to be carried on, have made a Proposal, for the Writing a REVIEW to be entirely taken up upon the Subject of Trade, with a Miscellany, or a part reserv'd to

handle Particular Cases in Trade— And expressly condition'd not to meddle with Matters of State, Divisions of Parties, or any thing relating to the Affairs of Government, Civil or Ecclesiastick.

This Work is propos'd to be Subscrib'd by such Gentlemen as think fit to encourage it, 'till it may be able to support it self; in which the Author hopes he may please you all, and may have an opportunity to lay down the unpleasant Subject of the Nation's Divisions; a Thing he has long desir'd to do.

The Proposals shall be Publish'd in this Paper, as soon as it is brought to a Conclusion— Mean time; any Gentlemen that are willing to Encourage such a Work, may let the Author know by Letter, or such Method as they think fit.

## ADVERTISEMENT S.

**T**HE Sale of Goods for 7500 l. being now very far advanc'd, do give this Publick Notice to the Contributors, that the said Sale will begin to be drawn at stationers-Hall, upon Wednesday the 15th of November next, in the Forenoon; and those Persons that design to take out Tickets in so Noble a Sale of Plate, &c. (where there are no Blanks, and but 14 to 1 Odds, for the drawing one of the large Lots of Goods, from 20 s. to 500 l.) are desired to be expeditious in taking out their Tickets, which are to be had in most Parts about Town, and at the Undertakers House against Southampton Street in the Strand; where all Persons may come and view the Plate, &c. Tickets likewise to be had at Sam's Coffee-House by the Custom House, Mr. Winn's at the Sugar Loaf, a Grocers without Bishopsgate, Tom's, Jack's, Coffee-House in Birchin Lane, and Mr. Harris's a Coffee-House in Ormond Street by Red-Lion-Square; John's Coffee House the Corner of Swithius Alley, in Cornhill; Mr. Marriott a Glover in Grace-Church Street,

Old Christian Coffee House at Smithfield Bars, and at Mr. Keigwin a Goldsmith on Snow Hill: Mr. Harrington's as the King's Head in King-street, Westminster, Linnen Draper; Which are not in the Printed Proposals.

**W**HEREAS many People are oftentimes troubled with the falling-down of the Palate, and Almonds of the Ears, which frequently occasion Quinsies, Inflammations, Imposthumations, &c. in the Throat. This is to give Notice, that there is prepar'd, a most pleasant Gargle, which never fails curing in the worst of Cases, as three or four Times using, without any other help: It also heals Rawness, Soreness, Thrush, Cankers, Ulcers, Scurvy, and all other Distempers in the Throat, Mouth, and Gums, of Old and Young. Sold only at Mr. Laurences a Toy Shop, at the Griffen the Corner of Bricklayers-Bury in the Poutry, at 3s. 6d. a Bottle, with Printed Directions.

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